

UTASS Briefing: 1st March 2023

FARM FOR THE FUTURE

The next event in this programme will be at UTASS at 7pm on Wednesday 8th March when Ian Cairns will talk about muck. He will cover compliance with the “Farming Rules for Water” as well as how to maximise its fertiliser potential. The high cost of artificial fertiliser combined with the phasing out of BPS means “making the most of your muck” is a crucial contributor to future productivity. A session with the TFA on Tenancy Issues is being arranged for May and one on Carbon and Soil Health for June. We are now signing people up for the next Farm for the Future round, please get in touch to be included in this free programme of events and advice.

BPS 2023

BPS will open for applications on 14th March with a deadline of 15th May 2023 to make an application without late penalties. UTASS will contact all members who we have supported with this in the past to make an appointment when the application window opens. This is the last year of the scheme. Farmers will need to submit a BPS application this year in order to receive delinked BPS payments from 2024 onwards.

COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP and ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

May 15th is also the deadline for submitting CS and ES annual claims. An annual claim is still necessary even if an agreement, or extension to an agreement, has only recently been signed. CS claims are made online through Rural Payments. The RPA will be emailing or posting Environmental Stewardship (HLS) claim forms as usual. The onus is still on the farmer to make an annual claim so please look out for the form arriving.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING INCENTIVE

Defra have recently issued more information on SFI roll-out. In addition to the 3 standards launched in June 2022 covering arable and horticulture soils, improved grassland soils and moorland and rough grazing, there are 6 new standards which will be introduced later this year:

- nutrient management standard
- integrated pest management standard
- hedgerows standard
- arable and horticultural land standard
- improved grassland standard
- low/no input grassland standard

There is also a £20 per hectare paid on up to 50 hectares “administrative payment” that Defra intend to add to SFI agreements later in the year.

One-off capital/investment grants and CS management agreements will be outlined in the next briefing.

For further advice and assistance please call UTASS on 01833 641010.

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